In direct contrast, the claimed composition contains a dispersant. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejections of Claims 2, 3, and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over <u>Hanson et al</u> alone or in view of <u>Morishima et al.</u> and/or JP 03055828A is believed to be obviated by the above amendment.

The Office indicates at page 5, lines 12-13, of the Office Action, that <u>Hanson et al</u> fails to disclose or suggest a composition containing a dispersant.

Morishima et al. discloses, at best, a composition containing a catalyst. However, Morishima et al. fails to disclose or suggest a composition containing a dispersant.

Accordingly, Morishima et al. fails to provide what Hanson et al lack.

The Office indicates that JP 03055828A discloses, at best, a composition that can be used as a dispersant (see page 5, lines 14-16). The composition according to JP 03055828A may contain poly(ladder) organopolysiloxane and a metal alkoxide (see the Abstract of JP 03055828A). However, the structure of the poly(ladder) organopolysiloxane is absent. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has mis-characterized JP 03055828A because it fails to disclose or suggest a composition containing a dispersant. JP 03055828A, at best, states that the composition disclosed therein can be used as a dispersant. In fact, there is no disclosure found in the JP 03055828A reference indicating that a dispersant may be added therein. Applicants respectfully submit that JP 03055828A's intended method of using its composition can not possibly be interpreted as disclosing or suggesting that the composition may contain a dispersant. Therefore, JP 03055828A fails to disclose or suggest a dispersant may be added to a composition containing the claimed compounds of formulae (1), (2), and (3). Accordingly, JP 03055828A's fails to provide what Hanson et al lack.

In direct contrast, the claimed invention relates to a composition containing compounds 1-3, which are represented by the general formulae:

$$R_{p}^{1}Si(OR^{2})_{4-p}$$
 (1)

$$R^{2}(OSi(OR^{2})_{2})_{o}OR^{2}$$
 (2)

$$M(OR^3)_r (3);$$

an organic pigment; a dispersant; and a solvent.

In light of the above, <u>Hanson et al</u> fail to disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Further, <u>Morishima et al.</u> and/or JP 03055828A fail to provide what <u>Hanson et al</u> lack.

Therefore, <u>Hanson et al</u> alone or in view of <u>Morishima et al.</u> and/or JP 03055828A fail to disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. Should anything further be required to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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## 3114-0025-0X PCT

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Serial No: 09/423,606 Amendment Filed on:

**HEREWITH** 

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

--1. (Amended) A glassy-film-forming coating agent comprising compounds represented by the following general formulae (1), (2), and (3):

$$R^1_p Si(OR^2)_{4-p}$$

$$R^2(OSi(OR^2)_2)_qOR^2$$

$$M(OR^3)_r$$

(3);

wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is a polymerizable organic group,

R<sup>2</sup> is an alkyl group having not more than 4 carbon atoms,

 $R^3$  is an alkyl group having not more than 6 carbon atoms,

P is an integer of 1 to 3,

q is an integer of 1 to 10,

M is a trivalent or tetravalent metal ion, and

r is an integer or 3 or 4 corresponding to the valence of M,

provided that, when one of the compounds contains two or more  $R^1s$ ,  $R^2s$  or  $R^3s$ , they may be the same or different;

an organic pigment;

a dispersant; and

a solvent.--

--Claim 4 is canceled.--